Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 048057 ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 R

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-----012410 240931Z/21

R 240630Z FEB 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO RUFHYC/AMEMBASSY NIAMEY 2362

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

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FOL NDJAMENA 0748 SENT ACTION SECSTATE LONDON PARIS TRIPOLI YAOUNDE DIA FEB 22, 1978 REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

CONFIDENTIAL NDJAMENA 0748

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PERP, CD, LY

SUBJECT CHADIAN/LIBYAN NEGOTIATIONS

REF: NDJAMENA 0732 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT MALLOUM AND QADHAFI ARE NOW SCHEDULED TO MEET IN SEBHA ON FEB. 23. HOPEFULLY, THIS MEETING WILL PAVE THE WAY FOR SOME SORT OF NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT OF CHAD'S PROBLEMS. HOWEVER, BASED ON PAST NEGOTIATING EFFORTS WITH LIBYANS, SUCH NEGOTIATIONS ARE OFTEN MERELY THE PRELUDE TO RENEWED HOSTILITIES. IN VIEW OF THIS AND THE DAMAGED STATE OF THE CHADIAN ARMY AT THE MOMENT, THE EMBASSY CONFIDENTIAL

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HAS WORKED OUT THE FOLLOWING PLAN FOR EVACUATION OF AMERICANS FROM CHAD IF NECESSARY. WISH TO STRESS THIS ONLY PLANNING; WE HAVE NO INTENTION OF INITIATING EVACUATION AT THIS TIME.

1. POTENTIAL EVACUEES ARE GROUPED INTO THREE AREAS: (A) A FEW IN BOL AND MASAKORY NORTH OF

NDJAMENA; (B) HEAVY CONCENTRATION AROUND NDJAMENA; AND (C) SVUQTERING THROUGH SOUTHWESTERN PART OF CHAD.

- 2. EVACUATION WOULD BE HANDLED AS FOLLOWS: AFTER POSSIBLE NOTIFICATION BY RADIO (MISSIONARY NET OR GENDARME NET) MOVEMENT WOULD BE CARRIED OUT: (A) BY CHARTERED SMALL PLANE FROM BOL TO NDJAMENA, AND BY ROAD FROM KASSAKORY TO NDJAMENA; (B) BY PLANE FROM NDJAMENA TOAMEROON IF POSSIBLE (SEE NEXT PARA) OTHERWISE ACROSS THE RIVER INTO NORTHERN CAMEROON (THIS IS QUICKEST WAY TO SAFETY, AND THE RIVER IS SO LOW WE COULD TALK IT IF WE HAD TO, HOWEVER, LOGISTIC PROBLEM ONCE ACROSS RIVER WOULD BE SEVERE); AND (C) BY TWO VEHICLE CONVOYS UNDER DIRECTION OF EMBASSY OFFICERS WHICH WOULD BE DISPATCHED FROM NDJAMENA TO CLEAR SOUTHWEST (FIRST WOULD TRAVEL FROM NDJAMENA, TO BOUSSO, SAHR, KYABE, KOUMRA, MOISSALA, DOBA, MOUNDOU, BAIBOKOUM ENDING IN MAROUA OR GAROUA. SECOND WOULD TRAVEL FROM NDJAMENA TO BONGOR, LAI, KELO, FIANGA, PALA, LERE, ALSO ENDING IN MAROUA OR GAROUA). EVACUEES FROM VEHICLE COLUMNS WOULD PROCEED FROM MAROUTA OR GAROUA BY AIR.
- 3. FOR AIR EVACUATION OF NDJAMENA, AND POSSIBLY MAROUA OR GAROUA, A PLANE CHARTERED OUTSIDE THE U.S. OR A U.S. MILITARY AIRCRAFT WOULD BE NEEDED. (PLANNING FIGURES IN CONFIDENTIAL

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REFTEL SHOULD BEVRONCREASED BY ABOUT 50 TO INCLUDE COMMONWEALTH CITIZENS WHO WOULD PROBABLY WANT TO GO.) DEPARTMENT'S ASSISTANCE IN MAKING SUCH TENTATIVE ARRANGEMENTS WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

4. LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR ALERTING AND PREPARING POTENTIAL EVACUEES ARE BEING MADE BY THE EVBASSY. BRADFORD UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 jan 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, NEGOTIATIONS, CONTINGENCY PLANNING, EVACUATIONS

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 24 feb 1978 Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014 Disposition Event: Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE048057
Document Source: CORD

Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: AF/W:MARK C EATON

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: GS Errors: N/A

Expiration: Film Number: D780085-1091 Format: TEL

From: STATE

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780215/aaaaamju.tel

Line Count: 102 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Message ID: cab638d0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc Office: ORIGIN AF

Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: 78 NDJAMENA 732

Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags:

Review Date: 18 apr 2005 Review Event: Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:**

Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 3483222 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: CHADIAN/LIBYAN NEGOTIATIONS TAGS: PINS, PEPR, CASC, CD, LY, US To: NIAMEY LAGOS MULTIPLE

Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/cab638d0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014